

**September Meeting****Friday, September 15
7:30 pm**

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette, CA****Five Radio Amateurs Now Aboard ISS**

NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 11, 2006 -- The arrival of the shuttle Atlantis crew at the International Space Station today has raised the number of radio amateurs now aboard the space station to five. Greeting the six Atlantis astronauts as they entered the ISS at 1230 UTC were Expedition 13 crew members Commander and Russian cosmonaut Pavel Vinogradov, RV3BS, US astronaut Jeff Williams, KD5TVQ, and European Space Agency astronaut Thomas Reiter, DF4TR. The shuttle linked up with the ISS a couple of hours earlier, following its off-scrubbed launch from Kennedy Space Center on September 9.

Two Amateur Radio licensees, Heide Stefanyshyn-Piper, KD5TVR, and Dan Burbank, KC5ZSX -- both mission specialists -- are part of the shuttle crew. No Amateur Radio operation from space is anticipated during the joint shuttle-ISS operations, which will focus on resuming space station construction.

NASA says that during three spacewalks, Atlantis crew members will install a second set of solar arrays on the space station -- doubling the station's ability to generate power from sunlight -- and the P3/P4 truss to support the arrays. Mission STS-115 marks the first station assembly mission since late 2002.

The only woman on Mission STS-115, Stefanyshyn-Piper will be making first trip into space since becoming an astronaut 10 years ago. Burbank previously flew on Mission STS-106. The STS-115 crew also consists of Commander Brent Jett, Pilot Christopher Ferguson and mission specialists Joe Tanner and Steven MacLean, who represents the Canadian Space Agency.

Stefanyshyn-Piper and Tanner, both mission specialists, are scheduled to begin a new pre-spacewalk procedure called "camping out" when they enter the station's Quest airlock this afternoon. NASA says the "camping out" procedure helps spacewalkers to begin the extra-vehicular activity sooner by reducing the amount of time typically required for the pre-breathe exercise and some spacewalk preparations.

Before docking the Atlantis with the ISS, Commander Brent Jett and Pilot Chris Ferguson commanded the shuttle to do a back-flip maneuver. This allowed the Expedition 13 crew to photograph Atlantis' heat shield for possible launch damage. Engineers on the ground will analyze the photos.

During a subsequent spacewalk, Atlantis crew members will remove PCSAT2 from the exterior of the ISS. The Amateur Radio payload, which resembles a suitcase, has been in operation for a little more than one year. It subsequently will be returned to Earth.

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Ramblings from the (Former) Editor**By Jerry Gardner, W6UV**

This is my last issue of the *Carrier* as editor. I've been editor for over three years this go-round and almost seven years altogether. Jeremiah Blasi takes over starting with the October issue. I wish him well.

Through these past few years, I've seen apathy grow in the club as the membership ranks have decreased. Interest in the club's newsletter seems to have taken a tumble as well. Perhaps Jeremiah can revive flagging interest in the publication that I couldn't.

Perhaps this trend is just an indication of the gradual fading of amateur radio in general as the participants age and newer, more modern interests grab the attention of the public. When I first got involved in amateur radio almost three decades ago, picking up a mike and talking with someone on the other side of the Earth seemed like magic. With modern networking technology, the magic is gone. I can now chat with anyone in the world via VoIP on my computer with a clarity and reliability unheard of in amateur radio.

As the signals sink slowly into the ozone, I bid you *adieu*.



Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX

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The *Carrier* is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and space is available.

All material must be submitted to the editor by the first day of the month of publication. Material is accepted on a first-in, first-out basis. Articles and other material may be submitted via Internet email to carrier@gardnerclan.net or delivered to the editor at the address listed in the club roster. Material will be accepted in plain ASCII or rich text format (RTF). Material may also be submitted as hardcopy.

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General Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Marty Heyman at 7:30 pm and was followed by the salute to the Flag.

There was a motion from the floor to approve the Minutes of the last General Meeting as published in the *Carrier*. The motion was seconded and approved.

Marty reported that the Treasurer was out of town but that we were generally on budget for the year. He noted that the membership chair position is not open and he needs to fill it as soon as possible. He also indicated that there are two positions open on the Board that he would like to fill, as well.

Three new members joined the club this evening. It was suggested that in the future we publish the names of new members, new licensees and license upgrades in the *Carrier*. Marty agreed to make this happen.

Three VE tests were given with the results that one person upgraded to General and one new Tech licensee was passed.

Marty reported for the Technical Committee that:

- The new ATV amplifier needs new cables installed.
- One of the sites to be used for the repeater linking is now unavailable

It was announced that the Picnic is scheduled for September 23 at Baldwin Park. Cost is \$5.00 per adult. Children are free.

Marty announced that the Nominating Committee for 2007 officers is comprised of Bob Green, Marty Heyman, and Ron Luttringer.

Congratulations to Jeremiah Blasi (K6BQ) who has volunteered to edit the *carrier*.

The program for tonight is C.E.R.T and Amateur Radio – A good fit.

RACES will be holding a training session tomorrow in Martinez.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Minutes prepared by Dick Brown, KT6X-Acting Secretary.

Firedragon Jammer

NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 7, 2006—As the so-called “Firedragon” jammer continues to transmit in one or more Amateur Radio bands, three International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 3 member-societies so far have appealed to the jammer’s target to move elsewhere. The Firedragon’s all-music transmissions from the People’s Republic of China (PRC) appear aimed at blocking the much-weaker broadcasts of the clandestine “Sound of Hope” (SOH), located outside the PRC. Responding via e-mail September 5 to an inquiry from IARU Region 1 Monitoring System (IARUMS) Vice Coordinator Uli Bihlmayer, DJ9KR, the SOH said its supporters use various avenues “including Amateur Radio frequencies” to get their message into the PRC.

“Through our investigation, we learned that the transmissions of SOH programs through Amateur Radio frequencies come from areas around China, and they each only target a local area of China with very low power, only for the intended audience and would interfere with nobody else,” said SOH’s Yue Chen.

Yue addressed the reply to “All Amateur Radio Community Members” and indicated it was copied to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), although no ITU addressee was displayed. Yue encouraged the Amateur Radio community to “openly urge the Chinese government to stop this outrageous act of radio jamming” and to urge the ITU to take action as well.

Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) Director Glenn Dunstan, VK4DU, told the Sound of Hope via e-mail this week that if it wants the support of the international community, it should move its transmissions into legitimate broadcasting spectrum.

“There is more than enough radio spectrum for you to use outside of the Amateur Radio bands,” Dunstan said September 5. “You are in breach of international radio regulations.”

Continued on page 4

Hilltopping With ATV

By John Ronan, K3ZJJ

An excellent quality signal from the Mount Diablo ATV repeater was received in the vicinity of Silver Lake in the Sierra's. The picture quality was better than P4 with audio and color at a distance of 98 miles.

The receiving station was comprised of a 10 element vertically polarized beam, a PC Electronics tunable down converter and a battery operated portable color television set.

The following are digital photographs of the received images and the receiving station. Note that the black areas on the face of the television display are artifacts of the scanning raster. This effect may be eliminated by shooting digital photographs at 1/30 or 1/20 of a second.



Test Pattern with Morse Code Identification transmitted for 20 seconds every 10 minutes



Receive Station with 10 Element Beam Antenna



Battery Operated Color Television With PC Electronics Down Converter



"Bore Sighting" the Antenna at Mount Diablo

Firedragon Jammer

Continued from page 2

A similar reaction came September 6 from Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI) Monitoring System Coordinator B.L. Manohar Arasu, VU2UR, who pointed the finger at both the Sound of Hope and the Firedragon music jammer.

"We, the Indian Amateur Radio operators, condemn both of you for using Amateur Radio frequencies," he said. "Please leave the frequencies clear at the earliest." Arasu suggested the jamming not only was bothersome to everyday hamming but could cause problems for emergency communication by radio amateurs.

New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters (NZART) Monitoring Service Coordinator Len Martinson, ZL1BYA, e-mailed the Sound of Hope September 6 to say its "illegal broadcast transmissions" were causing unlawful and harmful interference to the legal occupants of the Amateur Radio bands in question.

"Your transmissions are also attracting the attention of jamming stations, which is increasing the interference to unacceptable levels," he said. "Please cease transmissions in the exclusive amateur bands immediately."

IARU Region 2 Monitoring System Coordinator Bill Zellers, WA4FKI, agreed with the tenor of the Region 3 complaints. "Why are they [SOH] making excuses for something that should not have happened?" he remarked.

Bihlmayer said September 6 that the Firedragon was back on 14.050 MHz—a part of the 20-meter band allocated to the Amateur Radio Service on an exclusive basis worldwide—after spending two days on 14.400 MHz. He told DX Listening Digest that the Firedragon jammer on 14.050 MHz "is not the only one," and that several are active on frequencies outside the amateur bands. Over the past several months, the jammer also has been heard on 10.135 MHz, 14.260 MHz, 18.080 MHz and 18.160 MHz.

The music jammer takes apparent monitoring breaks on the hour, and when the jammer's carrier is off, Bihlmayer, who lives in Southern Germany, says he's heard a weak carrier on 14.050 MHz broadcasting a Chinese program that included speech.

He asked stations and SWLs in Hong Kong or Taiwan to listen during the breaks to pin down the jammer's target.

ARRL Monitoring System/Intruder Watch Liaison Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, says he's been able to hear the jammer from W1AW. In July, when the same jammer also was appearing on 18.160 MHz, Bihlmayer alerted telecom authorities in Germany and Hong Kong, as well as IARU Region 3 and the PRC embassy in Berlin to the situation. The 17-meter band also is a worldwide exclusive Amateur Radio allocation. Skolaut says he's received reports about the music jammer from all over the US, including Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico as well as from New Zealand.



MDARC Picnic

Please come to the MDARC Picnic on Saturday September 23, 2006.

TIME: 11 am to 3 pm (Lunch 12 to 1)

PLACE: Same as always, John Baldwin Park in Concord (Park-side Circle at Bonifacio St)

IMPORTANT!! We need an accurate head count so you **MUST** make a reservation. To make a reservation, email Bob at K6GD@arrl.net.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and children 12 and under are **FREE!** You can pay at the Club Meeting on September 15 or at the Picnic.

We want your input. Let us know if you have any entertainment ideas or if you would like to help with the event.

(Go to www.MDARC.org for updates)



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 11	7:00 pm	MDARC Board Meeting	Fuddrucker's Diamond Ave., Concord
September 15	7:30 pm	MDARC General Meeting	Our Savior's Lutheran Church
September 30		October <i>Carrier</i> Deadline	
October 2	7:00 pm	MDARC Board Meeting	Fuddrucker's Diamond Ave., Concord
Thursday Evenings	7:30 pm	MDARC Club Net	147.06 & 441.325 MHz

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